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Enclosed for filing is the patent application of Inventor:
MOHAMED ABDEL-MOTTALEB

IMAGE AND VIDEO AUTHENTICATION SYSTEM

ENCLOSED ARE:

- ☒ Appointment of Associates;
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449 and copies of documents listed therein;
- ☐ Preliminary Amendment;
- ☒ Specification (15 Pages of Specification, Claims, & Abstract);
- ☒ Declaration and Power of Attorney:
(2 Pages of a ☒ fully executed ☐ unsigned Declaration);
- ☒ Drawing (2 sheets of ☒ informal ☐ formal sheets);
- ☐ Certified copy of Application Serial No.
- ☒ Authorization Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136(a)(3)
- ☐ Other;
- ☒ Assignment to PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NORTH AMERICA CORPORATION

FEE COMPUTATION

CLAIMS AS FILED				
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	BASIC FEE - \$760.00
Total Claims	20 - 20 =		X \$18 =	
Independent Claims	3 - 3 =		X \$78 =	
Multiple Dependent Claims, if any			\$260 =	
TOTAL FILING FEE			=	\$ 760.00

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☐ Amend the specification by inserting before the first line as a centered heading --Cross Reference to Related Applications--; and insert below that as a new paragraph --This is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. , filed , which is herein incorporated by reference--.

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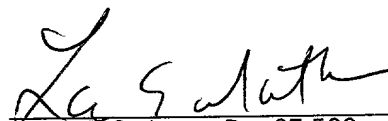

Laurie E. Gathman, Reg. 37,520
Attorney
(914) 333-9605
U.S. Philips Corporation
580 White Plains Road
Tarrytown, New York 10591
S:\galnewtrans.wp

IMAGE AND VIDEO AUTHENTICATION SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Field of the Invention

This invention generally relates to a system and method for authenticating image signals whether they are still images or part of motion picture video. A system designed according to this invention provides a digital signature unique to
10 the image and embeds coded information corresponding to that signature into a transform representation of the image.

Description of the Related Art

Digital imaging is being used at an increasing rate. Two standards for handling compressed digital image information include JPEG, which is typically
15 used for still images, and MPEG, which is typically used for motion picture video.

The JPEG compression standard is described in "The JPEG Still Picture Compression Standard", by Gregory T. Wallace, Communications of the ACM, April 1991, vol. 34, No. 4, pp. 31-44, which is incorporated into this specification by reference.

20 The MPEG standard is commonly used for motion picture video compression. MPEG is described in Practical Digital Video With Programming Examples In C, by Phillip E. Mattison, John Wiley and Sons, 1994, chapter 11, pages 373 through 393, and in "MPEG: A Video Compression Standard for Multi-Media Applications", by Didier Le Gall, Communications of the ACM, April
25 1991, vol. 34, no. 4, pps. 47 through 58, all of which are incorporated into this specification by reference.

As the use of digital imaging increases, the need for handling the image information in new ways also increases. One example is the need for image

authentication in circumstances where the image information is used for surveillance or other situations where the integrity of a received image signal is critical. Whether image signals are captured and stored in memory for later observation or are transmitted over a network to a central location for real time
5 observation, it is possible for unauthorized individuals to manipulate the stored images or to tamper with the signal being sent over the network.

While some attempts have been made to provide enhanced handling of image information, none has addressed the need for a secure authentication system. For example, the published application GB 2,326,048 discusses a system
10 for embedding a digital watermark into compressed image data. The digital watermark, however, merely indicates copyright or other author identification information. The disclosure of that document does not include sufficient security measures to authenticate the content of an image signal.

Those skilled in the art have been endeavoring to develop new methods for
15 ensuring the integrity of transmitted signals. One area where advances have been made is the derivation of a digital signature for an image based upon the image data. This invention utilizes a digital signature extraction method combined with embedding the digital signature information into a transform representation of the image. At a receiving location, the embedded information can be deciphered and
20 compared with the expected image signature so that the integrity of the received signal can be verified.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention is useful for authenticating an image signal whether that signal is a still image or part of a motion picture video signal. The invention is
25 most useful with compressed signal formats and provides a coded signature

embedded into a transform representation of the image that corresponds to the content of the image so that the authenticity of the image can be verified.

A system designed according to this invention is useful for authenticating an image signal. The system includes a transform module that generates a transform representation of the image. The transform representation includes high frequency coefficients. A signature extractor module generates a digital signature that is unique to the image because it is based upon the content of the image data. A signature embedding module assigns new values to the high frequency coefficients that correspond to the digital signature. In this way, a coded version of the digital signature is embedded into the transform representation of the image. The coded version of the digital signature can be deciphered at a receiving location and compared to the appropriate signature based upon the image data so that the authenticity of the received signal can be verified.

Another aspect of this invention is a method of authenticating an image signal that includes several basic steps. A transform representation of the image is generated. A digital signature unique to the image is determined, preferably by utilizing the image data information. The transform representation of the image includes high frequency coefficients that are identified. Then the high frequency coefficients are assigned new values that correspond to the digital signatures so that a coded version of the digital signature is embedded into the transform representation of the image.

Another aspect of this invention is to provide a computer readable medium having a plurality of computer executable instructions for authenticating an image signal. The computer readable medium designed according to this invention preferably includes a first program module that directs the computer to generate a

transform representation of the image. The transform representation preferably includes high frequency coefficients. A second program module directs the computer to determine a digital signature unique to the image, preferably based upon the image data content. A third program module directs the computer to
5 assign new values to the high frequency coefficients in the transform representation. The values assigned to the high frequency coefficients correspond to the digital signature. The assigned values in the high frequency coefficients are a coded version of the digital signature embedded into the transform representation of the image, which can be deciphered at a receiving location and compared to the
10 image signature to authenticate the received signal.

The various features and advantages of this invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description of the currently preferred embodiments. The drawings that accompany the detailed description can be briefly described as follows.

15 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 schematically illustrates a system designed according to this invention.

Figure 2 is a flow chart diagram illustrating a method of this invention.

Figure 3 is a schematic illustration of a preferred method of embedding
20 signature information into a transform representation of an image signal.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Figure 1 schematically illustrates a system 20 for authenticating an image signal that is useful whether the image corresponds to a still photograph or is a portion of a motion picture video signal. Image data is provided from a data
25 source 22. A transform module 24 processes the image data as part of a data

compression scheme. In the currently preferred embodiment, a discrete cosine transform is utilized as known in the art. Different transform algorithms used as part of data compression schemes are known in the art. The transform module 24 effectively generates a transform representation of the image.

5 The transform representation is provided to a signature extractor module 26 that determines a digital signature for the image. The digital signature preferably is based upon the content of the image data so that it is unique to the image. The currently preferred embodiment of this invention includes extracting an image signature by choosing a set of sub-images or windows from the image. The
10 sub-images or windows can be samples of the image data such as JPEG blocks or multiple blocks, for example. Relationships between selected pairs of the windows or samples are then used to build a signature.

 For example, an image is divided into 32 windows, divided into 16 pairs. Where a 16-bit signature is desired, each pair is assigned to one of the bits in the
15 signature. A value is computed for each pair of data samples. An evaluation function is applied to each window of the image to compute a representative value of that window. The representative values are then used in a comparison and the result of that comparison is utilized to generate a bit value as part of the signature. For example, if the first window of a pair has a larger value than the second
20 window and the difference exceeds a chosen threshold, the corresponding bit in the signature is assigned a digital value of zero. Alternatively, if the second window has a value larger than the first window by the chosen threshold, the bit value of the signature is set to one. The values of the windows can be determined using characteristics such as gray values, edge points, frequencies, variance of gray

values, etc. The chosen characteristic may be varied depending on the needs of a particular situation.

More details regarding the currently most preferred method of extracting a signature from the image data are given in United States Patent No. 5,915,038, the teaching of which is incorporated into this specification by reference. Other signature extraction or identification methods may be used according to the needs of a particular situation. Given this description, those skilled in the art will be able to choose the signature extraction strategy that best suits their needs.

Once the digital signature is extracted, it is provided, along with the transform representation of the image, to a signature embeddor module 28. The digital signature preferably is coded in a secret manner and embedded into the transform representation of the image. The signature embeddor module 28 preferably accesses high frequency coefficients in the transform representation of the image and assigns a new value to those coefficients that corresponds to the values of the digital signature bits.

Once the coded signature is embedded as desired, the image signal is handled by a signal processor 30 according to the needs of a particular situation. For example, the signal processor 30 could place the image information into memory or transmit it to a second location, for example.

It should be noted that although individual modules are illustrated in Figure 1 for discussion purposes, this invention is not limited to an arrangement with that number of separate components or devices. Those having the benefit of this description will realize that hardware, software and various combinations of the two can be utilized for performing the functions performed by the modules schematically shown.

Figure 2 is a flow chart diagram 40 that illustrates a preferred method of this invention. At 42, a preferably block-based transform procedure is performed to generate a transform representation of the image that includes high frequency coefficients. At 44, the image signature is extracted based upon the image data.

5 At 46, the high frequency coefficients within the transform representation are identified. At 48, new coefficient values are assigned to the high frequency coefficients that correspond to a coded version of the digital signature. The steps illustrated in Figure 2 preferably are performed at a sending location, for example. At a receiving location, the embedded, coded signature information is accessed or

10 extracted from the high frequency coefficients and deciphered to determine the embedded digital signature of the received image. That signature is compared with a signature determined directly from the image. If the two signatures match, the received signal is verified and the image content can be considered authentic.

Figure 3 schematically illustrates a preferred method of embedding the

15 coded signature information. A digital signature 50 is illustrated having 8 bits and is in a binary format so that each bit has a zero value or a one value. An image 52 is schematically illustrated having a plurality of blocks A through H. Each block includes at least one high frequency coefficient schematically illustrated at 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66 and 68, respectively. Of course, the schematic illustration in

20 Figure 3 greatly simplifies a transform representation of an image as known in the art.

A code preferably is used to embed information into the transform representation of the image that corresponds to the digital signature. In one example, an even value number is embedded into a high frequency coefficient of a

25 block to correspond to a zero value bit in the signature 50. Similarly, an odd

value number is assigned to a high frequency coefficient that corresponds to a bit in the signature having a binary value of one. As shown in Figure 3, the first bit of the signature 50 is a zero and the high frequency coefficient 54 is assigned an even value. Each of the high frequency coefficients illustrated correspond to one bit in the signature. It follows then, given the strategy mentioned above, that the high frequency coefficient 56 has an even value as do the high frequency coefficients 60 and 64. Each of the high frequency coefficients that correspond to a bit in the signature having a one value are assigned an odd number value. Accordingly, the high frequency coefficients 58, 62, 66 and 68 each have an odd number value.

Utilizing the high frequency coefficients in the transform representation of the image provides a convenient place to embed the coded signature information. The high frequency coefficients are typically associated with high frequency components in an image signal, which are typically considered noise and do not affect the perceived display of an image signal. Accordingly, altering the contents of the high frequency coefficients to include coded signature information is believed to not have any appreciable impact on the quality of the image that is ultimately provided.

In the example of Figures 3, one bit per block is utilized to embed the coded signature information. It is preferred that at least one bit per block is utilized. Up to 64 bits (*i.e.*, coefficients) per block can be used. It is important not to change the DC values of the transform representation of the image. Therefore, a minimum of one and a maximum of 64 high frequency coefficients are preferred for embedding the coded signature information.

Alternative coding strategies can be used. For example, multiple number values can be used in combination to correspond to each bit in the digital signature. Additionally, the digital signature can be repeated in the event that it contains less bits than there are blocks in a signature, for example. Having the
5 coded signature repeated throughout an image provides a more robust arrangement that renders it more difficult for an unauthorized individual to alter the image signal.

Given this description, those skilled in the art will be able to develop the necessary software code to program a computer or microcontroller or to develop
10 dedicated circuitry to perform the functions described above. Similarly, those having the benefit of this description will be able to choose from among commercially available components to develop a system that performs according to this description.

The preceding description is exemplary rather than limiting in nature.

15 Variations and modifications to the disclosed embodiments may become apparent to those skilled in the art that do not necessarily depart from the spirit and basis of this invention. The scope of legal protection given to this invention can only be determined by studying the following claims.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of authenticating an image signal, comprising the steps of
 - (A) generating a transform representation of the image;
 - 5 (B) determining a digital signature unique to the image;
 - (C) identifying high frequency coefficients within the transform representation; and
 - (D) assigning values to the high frequency coefficients to correspond to the digital signature.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein step (D) includes using a preselected pattern of coefficient values that is representative of corresponding values in the digital signature.
- 15 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the digital signature is a binary number having a plurality of digits, wherein each digit has a value that is either 1 or 0 and wherein the preselected pattern includes assigning a first number value to a coefficient that corresponds to a signature digit having a value of 1 and assigning a second number value to a coefficient that corresponds to a signature digit having a value of 0.
- 20 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the first number value is an even number value and the second number value is an odd number value.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein the digital signature is a binary number having a plurality of digits, wherein each digit has a value that is either 1 or 0 and wherein the preselected pattern includes assigning a first chosen number value to multiple coefficients that collectively correspond to a signature digit having a value of 1 and assigning a second chosen number value to multiple coefficients that collectively correspond to a signature digit having a value of 0.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the first chosen number value is an even number value and the second chosen number value is an odd number value.

10

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the digital signature has a plurality of digits and the transform representation of the image includes a plurality of blocks that each have at least one high frequency coefficient and step (D) includes assigning a value to one coefficient in each block that corresponds to one of the digits of the signature.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein there are a greater number of blocks in the image representation than there are digits in the signature and step (D) includes repeating the coefficient values corresponding to the signature a number of times such that each block includes a coefficient having a value corresponding to a signature digit.

9. A system for authenticating an image signal, comprising:
a transform module that generates a transform representation of the image that includes high frequency coefficients;
a signature extractor module that generates a digital signature unique to the image; and
a signature embedding module that assigns values to the high frequency coefficients that correspond to the digital signature.
10. The system of claim 9 ,wherein each of the modules is embodied in a computer.
11. The system of claim 10, wherein each of the modules comprises software.
12. The system of claim 9, wherein the signature embedding module uses a preselected pattern of coefficient values that is representative of corresponding values in the digital signature.
13. The system of claim 12, wherein the digital signature is a binary number having a plurality of digits, wherein each digit has a value that is either 1 or 0 and wherein the preselected pattern includes a first number value for each coefficient that corresponds to a signature digit having a value of 1 and a second number value for each coefficient that corresponds to a signature digit having a value of 0.
14. The system of claim 13, wherein the first number value is an even number value and the second number value is an odd number value.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the digital signature is a binary number having a plurality of digits, wherein each digit has a value that is either 1 or 0 and wherein the preselected pattern includes a first chosen number value assigned to multiple coefficients that collectively correspond to a signature digit having a value of 1 and a second chosen number value assigned to multiple coefficients that collectively correspond to a signature digit having a value of 0.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the first chosen number value is an even number value and the second chosen number value is an odd number value.

10

17. The system of claim 12, wherein the digital signature has a plurality of digits and the transform representation of the image includes a plurality of blocks that each have at least one high frequency coefficient and the signature embedding module assigns a value to one coefficient in each block that corresponds to one of the digits of the signature.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein there are a greater number of blocks in the image representation than there are digits in the signature and the signature embedding module repeats the coefficient values corresponding to the signature a number of times such that each block includes a coefficient having a value corresponding to a signature digit.

19. A computer-readable medium having a plurality of computer-executable instructions for authenticating an image signal, comprising:

a first program module that directs the computer to generate a transform representation of the image that includes high frequency coefficients;

5 a second program module that directs the computer to determine a digital signature unique to the image; and

a third program module that directs the computer to assign values to the high frequency coefficients to correspond to the digital signature.

10 20. The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the third program module assigns values to the high frequency coefficients according to a preselected pattern such that the values assigned to the high frequency coefficients are decipherable to indicate the image signature.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image authentication system utilizes a coded version of a digital image signature and embeds that information into a transform representation of the image. A digital image signature preferably is extracted from the image data.

- 5 That signature is coded so that the signature is not immediately recognizable. The coded information is embedded into high frequency coefficients in a transform representation of the image. The contents of the high frequency coefficients of a received or later accessed signal can then be deciphered and compared to the signature determined directly from the image to authenticate the integrity of the
- 10 signal.

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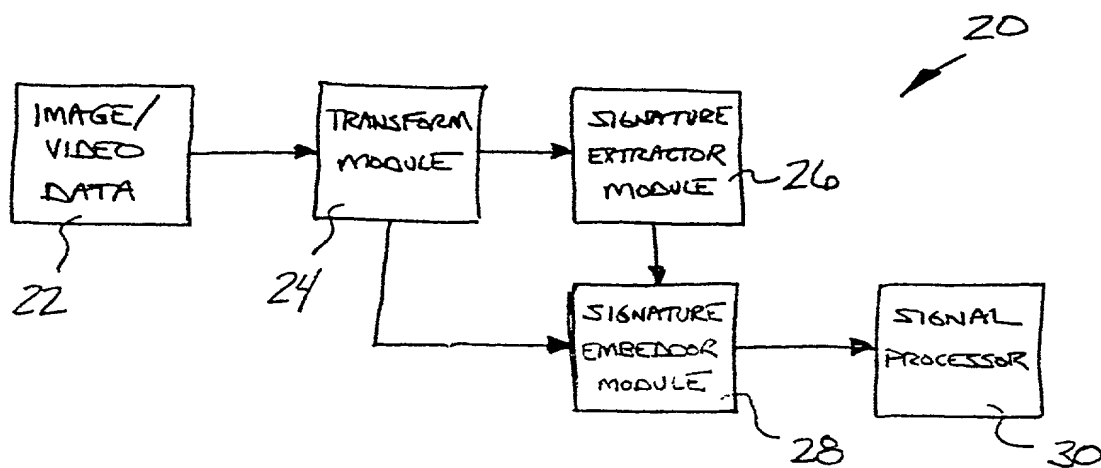


FIG 1

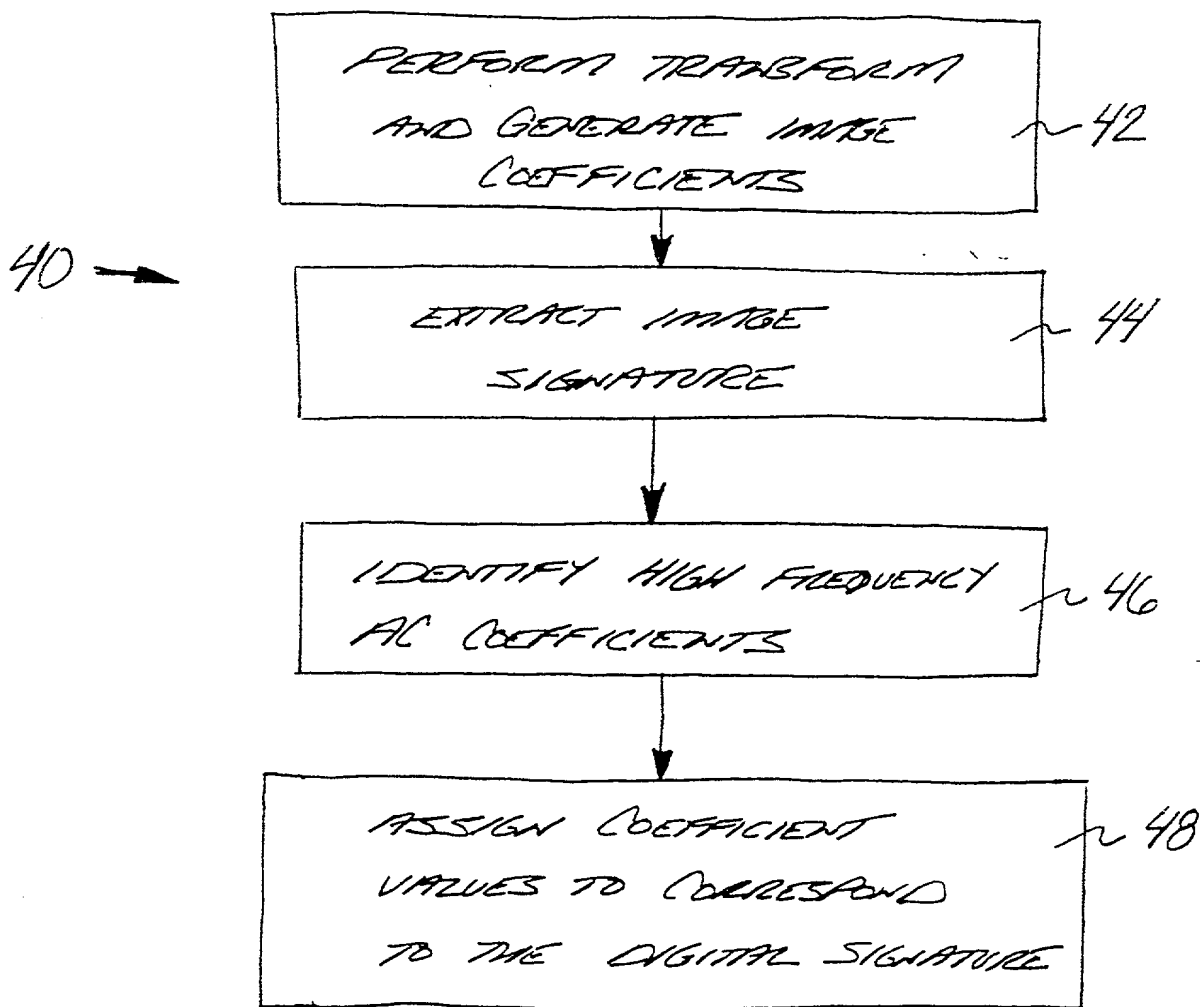


FIG 2

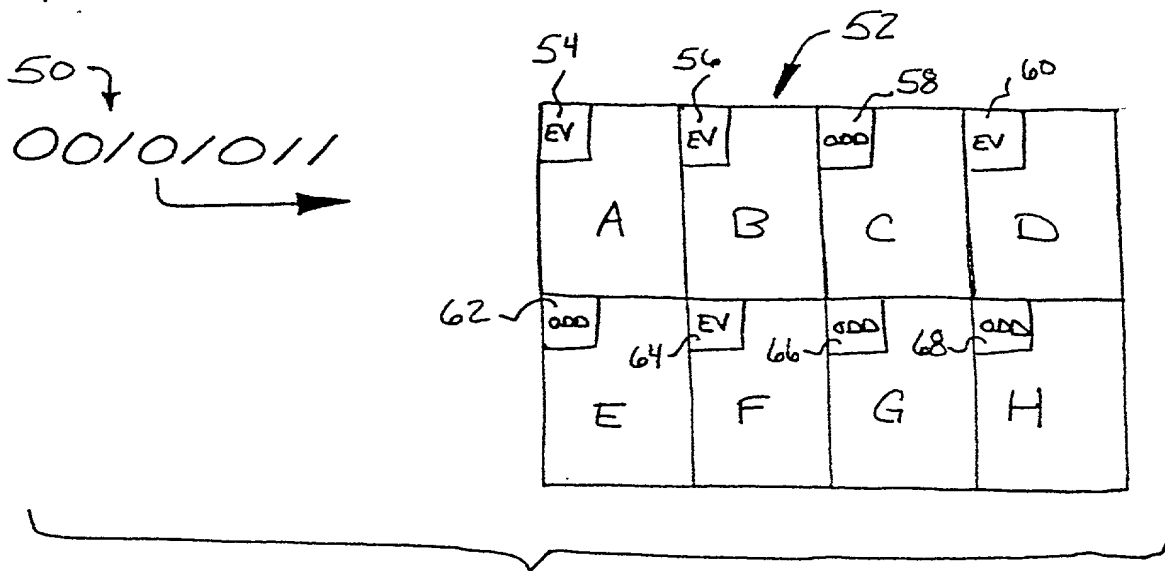


FIG 3

700499

DECLARATION and POWER OF ATTORNEY

Attorney's Docket No.

PHA 23,805

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled IMAGE AND VIDEO AUTHENTICATION SYSTEM

the specification of which (check one)

XX is attached hereto.

___ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by the amendment(s) referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulation, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (DAY, MONTH, YEAR)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35 United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

PRIOR UNITED STATES APPLICATION(S)

APPLICATION SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	STATUS (PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

Algy Tamoshunas, Reg. No. 27,677

Jack E. Haken, Reg. No. 26,902

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: Corporate Patent Counsel; U.S. Philips Corporation; 580 White Plains Road; Tarrytown, NY 10591	DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO: (name and telephone No.) LAURIE E. GATHMAN (914) 333-9605
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PHA 23,805

Dated: 5/10/1999		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: <i>M. Saleh</i>		
Full Name of Inventor	Last Name ABDEL-MOTTALEB	FIRST NAME MOHAMED	Middle Name	
Residence & Citizenship	City OSSINING	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY NEW YORK	Country of Citizenship EGYPT	
Post Office Address	Street 271 CROTON DAM ROAD	CITY OSSINING	State or Country NEW YORK	Zip Code 10562

Dated:		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE:		
Full Name of Inventor	Last Name	FIRST NAME	Middle Name	
Residence & Citizenship	City	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	Country of Citizenship	
Post Office Address	Street	CITY	State or Country	Zip Code

Dated:		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE:		
Full Name of Inventor	Last Name	FIRST NAME	Middle Name	
Residence & Citizenship	City	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	Country of Citizenship	
Post Office Address	Street	CITY	State or Country	Zip Code

Dated:		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE:		
Full Name of Inventor	Last Name	FIRST NAME	Middle Name	
Residence & Citizenship	City	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	Country of Citizenship	
Post Office Address	Street	CITY	State or Country	Zip Code